

the burden. The achievement of peace in the region is not a question of cash. But the vast disparity between monetary commitments in Eastern Europe and West Africa is telling; reflective perhaps of a basic unwillingness on the part of wealthier nations to meet Africans halfway in their efforts to build peace.

Last fall, Catholic Relief Services and other humanitarian organizations in Liberia warned the United States and European governments that if the peace process in Liberia was not supported, it would unravel. U.N. Secretary General Boutros-Boutros Ghali and Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings noted at the time that the annual U.N. budget for Liberia would last only five days in the former Yugoslavia.

Without the support needed to foster a peaceful transition, war returned quickly. Disagreements that a well-established democracy would weather easily turned into life-and-death struggles. The resulting horror is an example of a fledgling government's inability to solve its problems. But tragically, it is also an example of our vacillation, of our reluctance to provide the sort of support and companionship that could have seen Liberians through the dark but hopeful days of an early peace.

In Liberia, thousands of teenage fighters have not only been denied formal education during the years of mayhem, but in fact have never learned how to be members of society; they know only how to kill. These boy soldiers, having grown up killing, realized as the Abuja agreement dissolved that there would be no alternative to war; there would be no chance to learn a way to make a living without a gun, or even to develop into normal human beings. Already robbed of the luxury of human emotion, they would also be denied the opportunity to leave behind the violent life they had always known.

By January, the peace was undone, and today Monrovia burns. The people of the United States and the members of the Security Council must ready themselves to pacify Liberia and reconstruct the country from the ground up, again. As Americans, we cannot throw up our hands and walk away. Why not? Because Liberians are not all warlords. They are farmers and merchants, women and children; they are our brothers and sisters. And they need our support.●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE W. JENKINS, JR.

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, my colleague, Senator CONNIE MACK, and I join in a special tribute to one of the great business leaders of this century and a pioneer entrepreneur in food retailing: Mr. George W. Jenkins, Jr.

After a full and rewarding life, George Jenkins died peacefully in his sleep in Lakeland, FL, on April 8, 1996. He was 88.

Today, we salute the memory of this outstanding person, who personified the economic expansion of Florida in the 20th Century and the commitment to excellence in commerce.

On the eve of the Great Depression, George Jenkins invested funds he had been saving to buy a car in the first Publix grocery store. That was 1930. Since then, Publix has evolved into one of the largest supermarket operations in the Nation, with more than 500 stores in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, and annual sales exceeding \$9 billion.

Publix employees affectionately referred to their founder as "Mr.

George." Consumer Reports, in 1993, rated Publix tops in America in customer service.

In most endeavors, the positive assessment of one's peers is perhaps the highest accolade. To say that George Jenkins' peers respected him would amount to understatement; they revered him as a genius in food retailing.

George Jenkins will long be remembered for his business leadership, but also for his generosity and love of family. His philanthropy for United Way, the Boy Scouts of America, and other beneficiaries touched countless lives.

Florida is a better place and America is a stronger nation because George Jenkins shared his special talents and his giving spirit through much of this century.●

THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I voted for the illegal immigration reform bill before the Senate yesterday. The final bill is a much more balanced approach than what was first proposed in committee. Importantly, the illegal immigration reform bill deals only with illegal immigration, and expanding deeming for legally sponsored immigrants.

I supported dealing with illegal immigration separately from legal immigration because of my concern that if the two issues were dealt with together, as first proposed, legal immigration would be swept up in very different issues surrounding illegal immigration.

The illegal immigration bill sets necessary and clear limits while continuing America's history of being a nation of immigrants.

In recent years, illegal immigration has become an issue of serious legislative and national security concern. The bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City by undocumented aliens led the Clinton administration and various Members of Congress to propose legislation reforming the immigration process in the United States, particularly political asylum.

This illegal immigration bill deals with stopping illegal immigration on two fronts—at our borders by keeping illegal aliens out in the first place, and within our borders for those who have entered the United States legally but are now here illegally.

It improves the controlling and policing of our borders from illegal entry by increasing border patrol and INS inspectors. It also addresses the magnet of jobs and public assistance that has attracted illegal immigrants to the United States by authorizing a series of pilot projects to verify eligibility for employment in the United States and for receiving public assistance and by establishing a program to develop tamper proof birth certificates and driver's licenses to reduce their vulnerability to forgery.

This bill also increases the number of border patrol agents by 4,700 over 5

years. It adds 300 full-time INS investigators over 3 years to enforce alien smuggling and employment laws.

It also deals with the fact that half of all illegal aliens in the United States came here legally—they then overstayed their visas and are now here illegally. We can't eliminate the problem of illegal immigration only by policing our borders. We must also find ways to keep people from coming here legally as tourists or students and not leaving. The bill deals with this in a number of ways, but its major thrust is clamping down on the magnets that attract illegal aliens in the first place by eliminating access to U.S. jobs and taxpayer supported benefits.

In order to block illegal aliens from working and receiving public assistance employers and administrators of public assistance need to have a reliable way to know who is eligible to work or to receive benefits and who isn't. It has been illegal since 1986 to hire illegal aliens, but far too many are working and taking jobs from American citizens and legal permanent residents. The relative ease of access to U.S. jobs is what is drawing illegal aliens to the United States. The main reason the current system is not working as it should is because we don't have an accurate or forgery-proof way to verify employment eligibility.

This bill attempts to address this issue. It simplifies the existing cumbersome employment verification system by reducing the number of acceptable documents that can be used by employers to verify a person's eligibility to work. It lays the groundwork to develop a new verification system for employment and public assistance eligibility. The INS is directed to conduct several local and regional pilot projects to demonstrate the feasibility of alternative systems for verifying eligibility. The pilot programs can last from 4 to 7 years in an effort to find a workable system. Congress must approve any permanent program.

The bill language specifically takes steps to protect privacy and guard against anti discrimination. It also contains language to protect privacy and criteria to reduce the burden and cost to business.

The verification system aims to eliminate counterfeit documents by requiring that any document required for verification must be tamper resistant. However, the legislation makes clear that this document may not be required as a national identification card. Importantly, employers are not liable if they hire a person in good faith who is later found to have been ineligible.

The bill reinforces and strengthens current U.S. immigration law requirements that immigrants be self-supporting and that they not become a public charge. Legal immigrants are accepted into the United States under the condition that their sponsors, not the taxpayer, will be responsible for them. This bill holds them to that promise. It